AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 12-20 with the following amended paragraph:

BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool, ~~http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/~~ www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/) is a system for homology searches of nucleotide sequences and amino acid sequences that has been developed by NCBI (for example, refer to the Journal of Molecular Biology, 215, pp. 403~410 (1990)). Through the use of BLAST, sequences having a high degree of homology can be obtained from, for example, ~~Entrez~~ ~~(http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/)~~ ENTREZ® (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/), which is a DB on nucleotide sequences and amino acid sequences provided by NCBI. This database is thus being used on a daily basis by biological and medical researchers around the world.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 12-13, with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 7 shows a portion of an example of a result screen in a homology search of a nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:1);

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 14-15, with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 8 shows another portion of an example of the result screen in a homology search of a nucleotide sequence (nucleotide sequences are SEQ ID NOs:3-42, sequentially, from the top of the page to bottom);

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 18-19, with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 10 shows an example of a result screen in a homology search of an amino acid sequence, wherein the sequence at the top of the page ("## Query 933 letters") is SEQ ID NO:43, and the remainder of the nucleotide sequences are SEQ ID NOs:44-87, sequentially, from the top of the page to the bottom;

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 12 shows an example of a BLAST search result of the prior art, wherein first Query and Subject (from the top of the page) are SEQ ID NOs:88 and 89, respectively, the second Query and Subject are SEQ ID NOs:90 and 91, respectively, the third Query and Subject are SEQ ID NOs:88 and 92, respectively, and the fourth Query and Subject are SEQ ID NOs:90 and 93, respectively; and